

**Iowa Public Information Board
Comments From the Board Chairman
April 18, 2013**

Since our last meeting...

---We have received a signed agreement enabling the IPIB to use the case management software developed by the Ombudsman's office.

---Kathleen Richardson and I updated the editorial staff of the Des Moines Register on the Board's progress March 25.

---The Website Committee has met twice with Iowa Interactive and is on track to have the website ready for us by July 1.

---The Department of Administrative Services has identified some potential space for the IPIB in the Wallace Building but will not proceed to prepare the space for occupancy until the legislature has determined the agency's budget.

---At the March 21 board meeting, a member of the public voiced their concern with applicants for the position of Executive Director and Rule 12 of the Joint Rules Governing Lobbyists. Larry Johnson and I reviewed the concern, reviewed Rule 12, discussed the issue with members of the Ethics Committee in the Legislature, and received informal advice from the Secretary of the Senate. Based on all of the gathered information, discussions, and advice, there is no concern with any of the candidates and the board will proceed with the interviewing process.

---On April 9, the Senate Administration and Regulation budget subcommittee approved a budget of \$450,000 for the IPIB. Governor Branstad has recommended \$490,000 and the House has approved \$100,000.

---On April 9, Julie Pottorff and I staffed a hearing on our administrative rules. Nobody from the public attended. Earlier, we met with the League of Iowa Cities to discuss some changes the League is recommending.

---On April 12, Julie and I appeared before the Administrative Rules Review Committee to update the committee on the Board's progress and answer questions about the proposed rules.

---On April 12, a list of Executive Director interview questions was sent to Board members for their review and comment. Changes were made and the final set was sent to Board members April 15.

---On April 16 I traveled to the University of Iowa where I met with Mark Braun, President Sally Mason's Chief of Staff, to begin planning a fall IPIB meeting and symposium to be held in the Old Capitol. The same day, I spoke to the U of I Faculty Council on the progress of the Board.